



# Skyline High School Band Handbook

2018-2019

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Together, as members of the Skyline High School Band, we pride ourselves on being a family based on mutual respect, driven towards artistic excellence. We challenge our standards of musicality while maintaining a fun and safe environment. Our unified vision of excellence brings us together and allows us to succeed in both band and in life.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

- To help prepare students for a lifetime of musical enjoyment
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
- To acquaint the students with how history and musical composition relate to students' current life and musical experiences
- To provide all students with a means for self-expression and a healthy social experience
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group and to develop camaraderie with peers
- To foster leadership skills within each student

## ENSEMBLE OFFERINGS

Educational emphasis for **all** ensembles is placed on the advancement of instrumental technique, tone production, music literacy, independent and comprehensive musicianship, style, ensemble skill development, and a deeper understanding of chamber music.

### **Symphonic Band/Pep Band** *Auditioned winds and percussion*

**Symphonic Band** is the top concert band at Skyline High School. Symphonic Band represents a group of advanced musicians who perform a variety of high quality literature. This band will perform at numerous concerts, festivals, athletic events, and clinics throughout the year. This class provides a strong emphasis on building advanced individual and ensemble musical skills, creating well-rounded musicians, and the experience of making great music with your peers. Students are expected to be proficient on their instruments and maintain a high level of commitment throughout the year. Some additional sectionals may be scheduled outside the school day. *All students are required to perform as a member of the pep band as well.*

### **Concert Band/Pep Band** *Non-auditioned winds and percussion*

The Skyline **Concert Band** is a non-auditioned ensemble for students with previous instrumental experience. This band will perform at numerous concerts, festivals, athletic events, and clinics throughout the year. Concert Band focuses on the development of comprehensive musicians. Emphasis is on building individual and ensemble musical skills, creating well-rounded musicians, and the experience of making great music with your peers. This ensemble will perform at concerts, parades, school functions, pep assemblies, and travel to local festivals. Some additional sectionals may be scheduled outside the school day.

*All students are required to perform as a member of the pep band as well*

### **Jazz Band/Combo** *Auditioned group of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, and rhythm section*

The Skyline **Jazz Band** is an auditioned ensemble for students with previous jazz experience. *Students must be enrolled in a Concert Band or Percussion Ensemble to be able to participate in the jazz band unless previous arrangements have been made with Dr. Larragoity-Martin.* This group rehearses and performs a wide variety of music within the jazz genre. Students are expected to be proficient on their instruments and maintain a high level of commitment throughout the school year. Students will have many opportunities to perform in the community and at jazz festivals. Some additional sectionals may be scheduled outside the school day.

### **Percussion Ensemble/Pep Band** *Non-auditioned group of percussionists and select students with previous instrumental experience*

The Skyline **Percussion Ensemble** is a non-auditioned ensemble for students with previous instrumental music experience. Emphasis is on teaching the fundamentals of percussion performance, including proper mallet technique, rudiments, and performance experiences on all the percussion instruments. Students will perform at concerts and other events when needed. The members of Percussion Ensemble will also serve as the percussionists for both Concert Band and Symphonic Band. Students are responsible for purchasing concert drumsticks and appropriate mallets to use throughout the course. Some additional sectionals may be scheduled outside the school day. *All students are required to perform as a member of the Skyline Pep Band as well.*

### **Winter Drumline** *Auditioned percussionists/Rhythm section*

Skyline joins with Longmont High School to form the Longmont HS Winter Drumline, which meets afterschool during the Spring semester. Students will perform at concerts and competitions. All rehearsals are at Longmont High School. As the performance level is very advanced, the rehearsal schedule is extensive. **Participating students MUST be an active member of the Skyline Band Program.**

### **Chamber Ensembles** *Interested Students (All Grade Levels)*

The Chamber Ensembles at Skyline will serve as an outlet for students who desire a challenging environment to supplement their concert band experience. These groups can be made up of any combination of two or more instruments in an ensemble. If you are interested in this opportunity, please tell Dr. Larragoity-Martin.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Because of the nature of all performing ensembles, it is extremely important that students understand and follow the attendance policy set forth. When a student is absent from a rehearsal it affects everyone in the group, not just the individual missing class. A rehearsal, like a lab class, is a participation learning experience. One must be present in order to benefit. When a rehearsal is missed, it is missed forever. It is very important that each individual understand how important he or she is to the success of the entire group.

### **Daily Rehearsal Attendance**

All students are expected to be in class on time every day with their instrument, their music, and a willingness to learn. Students will be graded on their attendance and participation.

### **After School Rehearsal Attendance**

All students are expected to attend every rehearsal. They are **mandatory** and part of your overall grade. We can't succeed without everyone being present.

### **Performance Attendance**

Students are expected to be at all scheduled events. Students will only be excused from a performance in cases of school excused events, extreme emergency or personal illness. The director must approve excused absences. An unexcused absence at a performance will seriously affect your grade (see Grading Policies).

**Remember: When you miss a performance, the people who suffer are your friends and peers.**

### **Tardiness**

We have a limited rehearsal schedule and being tardy to class only makes it more limited. Once again, please be courteous to your peers and be on time. Students who are consistently tardy will face disciplinary action and have their grade lowered. This policy also applies to call times for concerts and other events. **Always be on time to rehearsals and events.**

## **GRADING POLICY**

### **Performance Attendance/Preparation: 40%**

Students must attend all instrumental music concerts. If you are unable to attend because of an extreme emergency or personal illness, please inform the director or a school administrator as soon as possible. Students will only be excused from a performance in cases of extreme emergency or personal illness. It is the responsibility of the student and parents to talk the director to make arrangements for an assignment that can be done in lieu of the missed performance. The director must approve excused absences **at least 3 weeks in advance**, if possible. **Absences due to conflicts with employment will not be considered excused.** Students must stay until the end of the concert to receive credit.

### **Class Participation/Preparation: 30%**

The success of an instrumental ensemble depends on how well it rehearses. How well a group rehearses depends upon the effort and cooperation of each of its members. Rehearsals are for learning. Rehearsal time is valuable, and every moment must be used to its full advantage. **Students will be given the opportunity to make up excused absences by recording themselves practicing for 30 minutes and submitting that recording to me within a week of the absence.**

Class participation is based upon the following factors: willingness to learn, attitude towards peers, being attentive to director, student leaders and guest conductors, having the proper materials in class, being prepared, attendance, and promptness.

### **Assessments: 30%**

Students will periodically be given performance & written assessments. Students will only be tested on material that they have had adequate time to prepare. Students will be graded on their preparedness of material and personal improvement. All students are required to perform an ensemble audition in the second semester. Material for this audition is handed out early in the second semester.

**Grading Scale**    **A**-90 -100%    **B**-80-89%    **C**-70-79%    **D**-60-69%    **F**-0-59%

## REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- Please be in your seat (with your instrument, music, and pencil) ready to play before class begins. **Music to be rehearsed is always posted on the board in the front of the classroom.**
- Before the rehearsal/performance starts, winds should be warming up your instrument by playing long tones, arpeggios, and scales. Percussionists should be obtaining and setting up the correct percussion instruments and mallets for rehearsal.
- When the director (or student leader) stops conducting, immediately stop playing and listen for instructions.
- Do not eat, drink, or chew gum during rehearsal or anywhere else in the band room. Water is permitted.
- Always use good posture as it affects your tone quality and intonation.
- When rehearsal is dismissed, please put your music and instrument away.
- Do not leave personal belongings in the band room for an extended period of time.
- **Absolutely, no cell phones are allowed during rehearsals and/or performances unless specifically allowed by the instructor. If a student is found using their cell phone at any time for any reason, they will be directed to bring the device to the main office, where an administrator will confiscate it for the duration of the school day, and the student will be required to return to class with a blue pass. If a parent must contact their child in an emergency situation, they are advised to call the school at 720-494-3741, and have that call routed directly to the band room. If a parent contacts a student via phone call or text during class, the student will not be allowed to respond until the end of the class period.**
- Number all measures in pencil.
- You must have a pencil in **EVERY** rehearsal. Your daily rehearsal grade will be affected.
- Students will receive well in advance notice of any after school rehearsals/sectionals. These are seldom, but often-required before a performance.
- It is the responsibility of the student to work on music outside of the class. **Rehearsal is the time for everyone to learn your part.** I am always available to give extra help before school, during lunch, and after school as long as previous arrangements have been made.

## CARE OF INSTRUMENT AND FACILITIES

- Always store your instrument in your assigned locker.
- When using school instruments, always care for them as if they are your own and put them where they belong when you are finished.  
**You are responsible for damage to school instruments in your care.**
- Please take care of our equipment and facility as if they were yours.
- All percussion equipment/mallets must be put away at the end of each rehearsal.
- Always clean up after yourself and others.
- Only percussionists are allowed to play percussion instruments.
- If it's not yours, please don't touch it.

## LOCKERS

- No Food or Drink stored in your instrument locker (Eww!!)
- Provide your own combination lock for your instrument locker if needed
- Have your combination on file with director (I will keep these confidential)
- Only use your instrument locker to store your instrument and music (No Outside Items)
- You are responsible for the condition of both the inside and outside of your locker
- Skyline High School is not responsible for anything that is stolen from your instrument locker.

## PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE

- Be on time with your music, instrument, and anything needed for the performance.
- Make sure you are dressed in the proper attire (this includes proper footwear) before warm-up begins.
- Remember, you are representing our music program, our school, and yourselves at every performance.
- Students should be courteous and attentive when watching other groups perform.
- You must remain until the end of the concert to receive full credit.
- Everyone helps to break down the stage and equipment after every concert.

## TRAVEL POLICIES

Traveling to perform at festivals, contests, and other venues is a privilege. Groups who strive for excellence musically and personally will be rewarded with these types of performances. When traveling, we represent our instrumental music department, our school, our community, and ourselves. It is extremely important that we conduct ourselves appropriately and respectfully.

## MUSIC

Each student will be given a folder at the beginning of the year. It is your responsibility to keep all music in that folder (not in a case). Each student is responsible for music checked out to him/her. Do not bend, fold, or tear music. Most of the music you receive are originals, not copies. Please do not write on music with a pen. Use a pencil and erase everything before checking in music. Students will be charged for music that is damaged or lost. Damaged or lost music charges will be based on their replacement value.

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The Skyline Band Department has a limited supply of instruments that are available for student use. Because they are in limited supply, students may not be guaranteed the use of any school instrument. Please treat them as your own. **Students using school instruments are responsible for any damage to that instrument.**

## CONCERT ATTIRE

### **Symphonic Band/Concert Band/Percussion Ensemble**

**Men:** Long sleeve button up black dress shirt, black dress pants (no jeans), black socks, and black dress shoes.

**Ladies:** Full length black skirt or pants and black dress shirt (no tank tops/long sleeve or 3/4 sleeve preferred) or long black dress.

*Concert attire should be solid black with no patterns.*

### **Jazz Band**

All members should have black dress pants and a long-sleeved black button down dress shirt. A red tie will be provided for you.

### **Pep Band:**

Band T-shirt provided by the school.

## STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND PROGRAM

### **TO OURSELVES**

YOU have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. **What you put into it is what you will get out of it.** Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work. Assume responsibility for your own actions. Have respect for yourself and others. Read and play music with insight – have high musical expectations for yourself.

The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

### **TO THE SCHOOL**

The St. Vrain School District provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and equipment. WE have the responsibility to provide the best possible services to our community.

### **TO MUSIC**

Bono, the lead singer from the Rock band U2 said, “**Music can change the world because it can change people.**” There are few things more powerful than performing music with others at a high level. It is a privilege and honor to be able to create art. Appreciate that not everyone gets this opportunity.

### **TO EACH OTHER**

We must always do what is best for the WELFARE of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another ensemble member's integrity.

## LETTERING SYSTEM

Instrumental music does require many hours of outside the school day for performances and activities. Students have an opportunity to earn a letter the same as they do in athletics at Skyline High School. This is a method of rewarding the students for their outside class time effort and provides motivation for this extra work.

Each year every student starts with no points, and by completing the items listed on the lettering form, they can earn a letter award. **It is the responsibility of the student, not the director, to keep track of the number of points accumulated.** Lettering forms are available from the director.

## PERSONAL PRACTICE

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band is more fun when you practice and can play your instrument well! There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: "Perfect Practice makes Perfect!" Here is a suggested plan of study:

*\*Pick a set time each day \*Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session \*Use a metronome for part of the time*

*\*Have an acoustically dry place for practice \*Increase dynamic range*

*\*Use a daily routine that consists of long tones, scales, and technical work \*Practice sight-reading*

## EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS NEEDED

### **Symphonic Band/Concert Band**

Each student will need to purchase a copy of the *Foundations for Superior Performance* by Richard Williams and Jeff King (\$6.95) for your instrument. This book can be purchased at Guitars Etc., online, or at many other local music stores. Additionally, reed players should have cork grease and a minimum of three extra reeds at all times. Brass players should have **both** valve oil and slide oil. All participants will also need to purchase a flip folder and lyre for your instrument.

Purchasing a quality mouthpiece can make a "student-model" instrument have a "professional" sound. They can greatly improve the sound of the individual as well as the ensemble. Please see the director for a list of vendors/brands.

### **Percussion Ensemble**

Percussionists purchase at least one pair of general-purpose snare sticks; wood tipped not nylon. (5A or 5B) All participants will also need to purchase a flip folder.

## FUNDRAISING AND FAIR SHARE

Fundraising for the Skyline High School Band Program is imperative, as our district budget cannot possibly cover all the operating costs of the program. All funds generated are used for uniform care, music, field trips, professional instructors, instruments, equipment, and festival registration. It is important to remember that when you are asked to help with a fundraising project, you are supporting both yourself and your own program and with your help, we should be able to reach our fundraising goals. Additional funding affords us opportunities that we all benefit from.

Check ensemble(s):  Concert Band  Symphonic Band  Percussion Ensemble  Jazz Band

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# Please complete and return by August 24

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**Student Name**

*We have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the 2018-2019 Band Handbook. We have copied down the important dates into our family calendar and student planner. We will do everything possible to attend and perform at every required concert and live up to the high standards of the Skyline High School Band program.*

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Email

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Student Email

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Parent/Guardian Home Phone

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Parent/Guardian Cell Phone

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Student Cell Phone



MORE ON BACK  
BUY GAS AND GROCERIES TO  
SUPPORT THE SKYLINE BAND

Support the Skyline Band Program in 3 Easy Steps:

Step 1: Buy a \$5 King Soopers gift card from Ms. Texera. It will come pre-loaded with \$5 store credit.

Step 2: Every time you go grocery shopping or buy gas at King Soopers, add money to your card at any register or the Customer Service kiosk **before** your groceries are scanned.

Step 3: Use this King Soopers card to buy all your groceries and gas. *That's it!* Every time you use it, 5% will go to directly to the Band Program at Skyline!

Why it's SO EASY:

- There is no cost to anyone. 5% of the money you already spend on groceries and gas will go directly to the Skyline Music Program every time you add money to the card!
- You can purchase everything but services using your card, including all your groceries and gas from King Soopers/City Market Fuel Centers!
- You know you already shop at King Soopers... this is SO MUCH EASIER than selling butter-braids/wrapping paper/candles/etc.!

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM (and I hope you do!) IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE THIS CARD EVERY TIME YOU BUY GROCERIES/GAS ALL YEAR LONG!**

Please fill out the box below and let me know how you'd like to support us, and attach a check to this sheet when you turn it in on August 24. Checks are payable to "Skyline High School".

Thank you for your support!!!!

Qty. of King Soopers Cards:	_____	x \$5=
_____		
Donations:		_____

[Staple check here, payable to "Skyline High School"]